

Events & Announcements | July 21, 2010

connecting the congregations of Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference

- 25th annual IN-MI Mennonite Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education Golf Benefit on Aug. 28
- Goshen College "Welcome Basket" project for international students
- Mennonite Church USA art proposal deadline extended to Nov. 1 (see attached poster)
- Spread the Peace grants available
- Upcoming workshops sponsored by the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations)

The 25th annual IN-MI Mennonite Racial/Ethnic Leadership Education Golf Benefit, hosted by Mennonite Education Agency, **will take place on Saturday, Aug. 28, 2010**. The event will begin at 7:30 a.m. at the Sims Oak Hills Golf Course in Middlebury, Ind. The entry fee of \$65 per person includes lunch. Proceeds go to African-American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American students in leadership training for churches in Mennonite Church USA. Request a registration form from Mennonite Education Agency by phone, 574-642-3164, or e-mail info@mennoniteeducation.org. Everyone is welcome. --*Rachel Nussbaum Eby, director of communications, MEA*

The Goshen College Church Relations office is seeking local congregations to participate in the second year of our "Welcome Basket" project for new international students. The baskets provide a way for international students new to Goshen College to connect to a local congregation. The church, or a small group within it, provides a list of basic items for the student (total cost \$50-75), and the student, in turn, visits the congregation sometime during the fall semester. **Please contact Bethany Swope by July 26** for more information and to be matched with a student. Baskets need to be completed by Friday, Aug. 20. --*Bethany Swope, church relations coordinator, Goshen College, 574-535-7119 or churchrelations@goshen.edu*

Mennonite Church USA art proposal deadline extended (see attached poster). Mennonite Church USA will incorporate artwork from artists in the Mennonite community to be displayed within and around the new Mennonite Church USA Elkhart office building. There are opportunities both to earn an art commission or to donate work. The deadline to submit a proposal has been extended to November 1. Go online to submit an art proposal: www.MennoniteUSA.org/JoiningTogether/Art

Spread the Peace grants available. To encourage congregations and area conferences to "spread the peace" in and beyond the Mennonite community, the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA has small start-up grants available. Funds will be given to those projects meeting the following criteria and as funding allows:

- To Mennonite congregations or area conferences for projects based in the United States
- For church initiatives
- For witness, reaching out, sharing the peace of Christ
- For NEW projects or a NEW initiative of a current project
- For projects beginning after November 30, 2010
- To recipients who will raise local matching funds from individual donors and other organizations, both within and outside the congregation or area conference, to demonstrate local ownership and commitment
- To recipients who have not received a grant in the last five years

Applications will be accepted from June 1 through Sept. 1. Decisions will be made at the fall Peace and Justice Support Network meeting. For more information including an application form: <http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/stpgrant.pdf>

Two upcoming workshops sponsored by the Center for Congregations (limited to Indiana congregations, funded by Lilly Endowment Inc.):

Essentials of Church Finance (Part 2) with Vonna Laue, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Wed., Sept. 22, 2010, at St. Christopher Episcopal Church, 1440 W. Main St., Carmel, and 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Central time) Thurs., Sept.

23, 2010, at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, 9770 Keilman St., St. John, in Lake County, Ind. Laue will lead congregational leaders through workshops covering topics of church accounting practices, planning and budgeting, internal controls and risk management, and financial reporting. Part 1 was offered in spring 2010 and is not a prerequisite for Part 2. Time will be allowed for an in-depth question-and-answer period and participants are encouraged to bring specific questions.

- \$30 a person (\$25 a person for congregational teams of three or more)
- Fees include lunch and a copy of Laue's book, *Essential Guide to Church Finances* or *Zondervan 2010 Church and Nonprofit Tax and Financial Guide: For 2009 Tax Returns* by Dan Busby.
- For details or online registration, visit www.centerforcongregations.org

Flourishing Congregations is 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Central time) Thurs., Oct. 14, 2010, at the Radisson Hotel at Star Plaza, 800 E. 81st Ave., Merrillville, Ind. This is an exciting, hands-on, educational experience that explores positive change processes and how they can work within congregations. Clergy, staff, and leaders from all faith traditions are invited to participate. Leaders will gather together to share, learn and discover a flourishing future. Modeled after the *Flourishing Congregations* gatherings held in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Evansville and Columbus, Ind., this event will empower leaders to look at the positive core of congregations when they function at their best. Through positive change processes such as Appreciative Inquiry, World Café, and Asset Mapping, participants will learn various ways to look at their faith communities as mysteries to be embraced rather than as problems to be solved. It is designed for teams and each participating congregation is encouraged to bring a team of up to five people. Space is limited to 150 participants.

- \$50 per congregation for teams of 2-5 persons
- Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, parking and materials
- For details or online registration, visit www.centerforcongregations.org

Events & Announcements serves to connect the congregations of IN-MI Mennonite Conference. It is published every two weeks. To submit items for publication please mail to imoffice@im.mennonite.net.

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